

Appl. No. 10/652,628
Amdt. Dated Jun. 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Mar 10, 2004

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 20-29 and the indication of allowabilities of claims 4-10.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Webster (4,872,853). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection due to the following reasons.

Claim 1 defines an electrical connector for engaging with an electronic card comprising a housing and a retention mechanism located at one end of the housing. The retention mechanism comprises **at least one curved resilient arm abutting against a top face of the housing** and a pair of legs spaced from each other to define a channel therebetween adapted for receiving a latching projection of the electronic card. **The at least one resilient arm flattens to move the legs outwardly.**

Webster discloses an electrical connector 40 comprising a housing 44 defining an end block 48 located at one end of the housing 44, a substantially U-shaped retention mechanism 10 pivotally contacted to the end block 48, and a rotating handle 46 vertically moved around the housing 44. The retention mechanism 10 includes a pair of legs 14, 16 and a bight 18 at closed end retained by the rotating handle 46. Each leg comprises three bends 24, 26, 28, a curve 30 located in a free end of the leg and a convex 34 positioned between the bight 18 and the curve 30. The curve 30 further includes a pair of alleged legs 32 spaced from each other to define a channel therebetween adapted for receiving the end block 48, with free end portions 36 of the legs 32 being inserted into the end block 48. However, **whether in released or closed state (as shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 6), Webster does not disclose the three bends 24, 26 and 28 abutting against the top**

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portion of the housing 44. Referring to FIG. 5, when pressure against the convex 34, the retention mechanism 10 will elongate to make the bight 18 enter into a slot defined in a side of an inserted card. **Furthermore, Webster fails to disclose the subject matter that the three bends 24, 26 and 28 flatten when the pressure against the convex 34.** It is clear that the limitations of claim 1 are not totally disclosed by Webster. Thus, Webster cannot anticipate claim 1. Claim 1 should be allowable.

Claims 2 should also be allowable since it is dependent from claim 1.

With regard to claim 3, Examiners do not specifically suggest an oblique inner face forming in the end block for preventing the legs from overly moving. It is essential to examiners to show the oblique inner face of the end block. Claim 3 should carry more patentability in addition to its dependence from claim 1.

Claim 11 should also be allowable since it is dependent from claim 1.

Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tondreault (5,420,523).

Amended claim 12 discloses a retention mechanism comprising at least one resilient arm **comprising a pair of upwardly extending abutments at free ends thereof.**

Tondreault discloses a retention mechanism 28 defining a body portion 32 and a pair of resilient arms 48, 50 transversely projecting away the body portion 32. **Each resilient arm forms an interiorly projecting tapered head 54, 56 for interferentially fixing an inserted card.** It is clear that the interiorly projecting tapered head is far from the upwardly extending abutments. By contrast, the cited prior art fails to disclose such feature. Therefore, Tondreault cannot anticipate amended claim 12. Amended claim 12 should be allowable.

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Claim 13 should also be allowable since it depends from claim 12.

Claim 14 is cancelled.

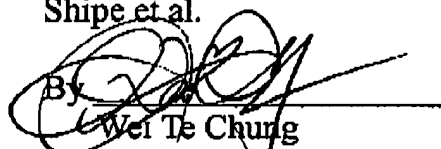
Claims 15 should also be allowable since it indirectly depends from claim 12. With regard to claim 15, Tondreault neither explicitly nor implicitly suggest a connecting portion interconnecting the legs and the resilient arms.

Claims 16-17 should also be allowable since they depend from claim 12, either indirectly or directly.

Claims 18-19 should also be allowable since they indirectly depend from claim 12. With regard to claim 18, Tondreault fails to disclose a main body including a **horizontal portion, a vertical portion and a U-shaped intermediate portion interconnecting the horizontal portion and the vertical portion**. With regard to claim 19, Tondreault fails to disclose a pair of **tails** downwardly extending from the vertical portion of the main body.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Shipe et al.

By 
Wei Te Chung

Registration No.: 43,325
Foxconn International, Inc.
P. O. Address: 1650 Memorex Drive,
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Tel No.: (408) 919-6137